67. Conversion of the village road from Mavelikara to Kozhencherri into a cart-road.

Mr. Kochu Thomman Kuruvila (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that he would divide the proposed road into two portions—the one from Mavelikara to Chengannur *via* Kollakadavu and Kodukulanji, and the other from Chengannur to Kozhencherri *via* Puthencavu and Aranmula. On the first portion, only 2½ miles of road had to be laid. As he learnt that the estimate for the work had been sanctioned, he would only press for the work being started at once.

In regard to the second portion, he said that there was a village road up to Kozhencherri, over a distance of 7 miles. Kozhencherri could also be reached through the Pampa river. But the river would be extremely dangerous for navigation during the monsoon, while, in the hot months of the year, there would not be enough water in it. It was therefore necessary to improve the village road. It was really a tap-road, for, from Kozhencherri, there were roads to Rani, Koni, Pathanamthitta and other places. One mile of the road up to Puthencavu was in good condition and the remaining 6 miles had to be gravelled. He requested that that portion might also be improved along with the first line.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

68. The need for a road from the Kozhencherri-Pathanamthitta road to Thumpamon-Ampalakadavu.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panicker (Member, Nominated) requested that a new road should be constructed from Vayyanikulam on the Koni–Pathanamthitta road to Thumpamon–Ambalakadavu *via* Punakad, Kuzhikala and Elavanthitta. The distance would be 8 miles. The road was very necessary for about 3,500 families living within an area of 120 square miles between the Kulakkada river in the south and the Pampa in the north. There was the Sri Mularajagopalapuram Market at Elavanthitta, named after His Highness the Maha Raja and the Dewan, which was opened in 1085, and a village Anchal office and a grant-in-aid middle school at Kuzhikala. The full benefits accruing from those institutions could not be enjoyed for want of a road. The ryots of the locality would be willing to give the lands necessary for the road free of compensation. He requested therefore that the road might be sanctioned.

The Member next said that the other branch roads in the locality were very narrow and in a neglected condition. There were circular orders enjoining the people to keep them in good condition. He requested that the matter might receive attention.

He added that the road from Pandalam to Aranmula, No. 14 in the list of roads for the Quilon Division, had not been done, though road No. 15 was improved already. He requested that the road might be taken up and improved at once.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

69. The desirability of improving the Kuttipuzha Canal.

The Very Revd. Iype Thoma Kathanar (Member, Thiruvalla taluk) stated that before proceeding to his subject, he felt it his duty to say a few words in reference to the words that fell from the lips of a Member from Agastiswaram on Saturday last. He did not understand that Member when he made the unwarranted statements, because he spoke in English; but it gave him extreme pain when he knew from his brother-Members subsequently what it was that the man said. It pained him because he knew it gave just cause for resentment and sorrow to the Government. The object of that Member, as he was able since to understand him, was nothing short of doing away with that important and useful institution, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. The Assembly was not an institution which the people obtained from the Government by coercion. But it was a voluntary gift of His Highness the Maha Raja to his people, and it showed the keen and earnest solicitude of His Highness to know at first hand the wants and wishes of the people and to grant them the needed relief. The proceedings in the Assembly during the ten years of its existence

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